

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
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C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 8786

STADIS////////

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, KE
SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OFFICE OF DEFENSE COOPERATION
IN KENYA

1. FOR OVER TWO YEARS NOW, THIS EMBASSY HAS ADMINISTERED, USING ONLY ITS TWO-MAN POLITICAL SECTION AND, OCCASSIONALLY, THE DCM, AN FMS SALES PROGRAM AVERAGING \$15,000,000 A YEAR AND AN IMET TRAINING PROGRAM, WHOSE MAGNITUDE IS NOW APPROACHING \$500,000 A YEAR. IN ADDITION, THE EMBASSY PROGRAMS THE VISITS OF U.S. NAVAL VESSELS WHICH COME TO MOMBASA AT SEEMINGLY AN EVER INCREASING RATE, AND ADMINISTERS THE PROVISION OF ALL GOODS AND SERVICES TO THE SHIPS WHILE THEY ARE IN PORT. WE ALSO HANDLE FREQUENT OPERATIONAL VISITS BY DOD AIRCRAFT.

2. WHILE I FULLY APPRECIATE THE CONTRIBUTION THESE PROGRAMS MAKE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR NATIONAL OBJECTIVES HERE IN KENYA, THE MANAGEMENT OF THESE ACTIVITIES HAS PUT A STRAIN ON OUR PERSONNEL RESOURCES THAT HAS BECOME UNACCEPTABLE. RECENTLY, INSPECTORS ASCERTAINED THAT THE TWO MEN IN OUR POLITICAL SECTION WERE SPENDING UP TO EIGHTY PERCENT OF THEIR TIME ON MILITARY MATTERS, WHICH HAS MEANT THAT THE DCM HAS HAD TO ASSUME AN UNDULY LARGE
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SHARE OF THEPOLITICAL REPORTING.

3. THUS, THE INSPECTORS RECOMMENDED THAT WE CONSIDER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SMALL OFFICE OF DEFENSE COOPERATION IN THE EMBASSY TO MANAGE THE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND THE NAVAL AND AIRCRAFT VISITS. I HAVE GIVEN THE MATTER CAREFUL THOUGHT AND HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT WE SHOULD

FOLLOW THE INSPECTORS' RECOMMENDATION AND ESTABLISH THE DEFENSE OFFICE AT AS EARLY A DATE AS POSSIBLE. I WILL NOTE, PARENTHETICALLLY, THAT I CAME TO THIS CONCLUSION RELUCTANTLY, BEING A VERY STRONG SUPPORTER OF THE PRESIDENT'S POLICY OF RESTRAINT REGARDING THE PROVISION OF ARMS ABROAD. I HAVE BECOME CONVINCED THAT IN THIS CASE OUR COOPERATION IS FULLY FUSTIFIED SINCE, OBVIOUSLY, RESTRAINT DOES NOT IMPLY A DECISION TO REFUSE OUR FRIENDS ASSISTANCE, WHEN THE FACE CREDIIBLE EXTERNAL THREATS FROM FORCES FAR SUPERIOR TO THEIR OWN.

4. I WOULD HOPE THAT THE DEPARTMENT COULD INITIATE DISCUSSIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WITH A VIEW TOWARD THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE BY THE BEGINNING OF FY 79. I WILL BE HAPPY TO PROVIDE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION OR COMMENT THAT THE DEPARTMENT FEELS MAY BE NECESSARY OR BE PREPARED TO COME TO WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS THE ORGANIZATION, STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF THIS OFFICE SHOULD THAT BE DESIRABLE.
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